

TAPES TO RECORD KENNEDY HISTORY

Recollections of Associates
to Be in Planned Library

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13—The recollections of thousands of persons who worked with President Kennedy will be recorded on tape and placed in the projected John F. Kennedy Library in Massachusetts.

Cabinet members, friends, heads of foreign governments, Massachusetts politicians who knew Mr. Kennedy at the start of his career—all these will be interviewed.

The oral-history project was

one of several plans disclosed for the Presidential library today by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy at a press conference.

Eugene Black retired president of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank), has agreed to serve as chairman of the library board of trustees. Present at the press conference, he said he had accepted the post because of his "great admiration for President Kennedy and his family."

Mr. Black's first job will be to head up the raising of the \$10 million needed to build, equip and endow the library.

The Attorney General announced that the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation had made a gift of \$1 million. He said that many others had indicated a desire to give and that he hoped fund-raising could be completed in six months.

He said a nationwide commit-

tee of architects, to be announced soon, would lay down the rules for selecting the designer of the building. It will be located across the Charles River from Harvard College, on land donated by Harvard.

In several respects the library will be quite different from the two other repositories of Presidential papers, the Truman and Eisenhower Libraries.

These libraries are largely restricted to President Truman's and President Eisenhower's own papers. The collection in the Kennedy Library will not be so restricted. Instead, an effort will be made to collect from all Government agencies materials on any issue with which he dealt.

Experts from the National Archives already have four cameras at work at the Justice Department photographing material on civil rights crises and other department matters that involved President Kennedy.

All other departments are co-operating. They have made master lists of the subjects that have to be covered, and before long the microfilming crews will move in.

There will be two major components of the library aside from the archives.

A museum will include not only gifts, as do the Truman and Eisenhower Libraries, but also a collection of films and tapes of President Kennedy. There will be facilities for a visitor to see a film of a news conference or hear a tape of a Kennedy political speech.

There will also be an institute as part of the library, to give lectures and seminars and to grant fellowships. Of the \$10 million budgeted for the project, \$4 million is to endow the institute.

The institute's main purpose, Attorney General Kennedy said, will be "to encourage young people to participate in the political life of their communities

—whether Democrats or Republicans—to see that politics is not reserved for those who have nothing better to do . . .

The oral-history record may be made visual as well as oral. Consideration is being given to putting some of the interviews on television tape.

As an example of what he sought, Attorney General Kennedy mentioned an interview with Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon to see "what conversations he had with the President about the tax bill."

Some of the interviews will deal with highly classified material and will have to be handled a special way.

For instance, Mr. Kennedy suggested that recollections of the Cuban missile crisis might be preserved by having five or six of those involved talk it over one evening, with one outsider present to prod memories.

Material like that would have to be withheld from the public for a period of years. Aside from the problem of security, those interviewed might specify that it not be released for, say, 10 to 25 years so that they could be candid in discussing personalities.

But the emphasis, Mr. Kennedy said, would be on making everything available as soon as possible.

Historians and others from outside the Government will serve as interviewers in some cases. In others, especially at the top level, people within the Government will do the questioning.

The Attorney General said Columbia University's oral-history project, under Prof. Allan Nevins, had been consulted. The Columbia program tape-records interviews with leading figures in all aspects of civilization.